



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, June 7, 2012

**Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve
18333 North Thompson Peak Parkway
Scottsdale, AZ 85260**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James Heitel, Chairman
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner
Robert Frost, Commissioner
Mike Milillo, Commissioner

ABSENT: Fred Klein, Vice Chairman
Marg Nelssen, Commissioner
Con Englehorn, Commissioner

STAFF: Bill Murphy
Kroy Ekblaw
Claire Miller
Robbin Schweitzer
Scott Hamilton

GUESTS: Mike Nolan
David Hay
Jack McEnroe
Mike Mayer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present as noted above.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of May 3, 2012

COMMISSIONER MILILLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 3, 2012, MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WHEELER, THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE CHAIRMAN KLEIN AND COMMISSIONERS ENGLEHORN AND NELSEN WERE ABSENT.

5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Mr. Nolan updated the Commission on Conservancy activities, including construction and maintenance projects and the progress of the Pathfinders. He discussed topics planned for the conservation lecture series and offered to invite the scientists to present to the Commission. In response to a question from a member of the public, Mr. Nolan confirmed that the long-term strategic plan contains a habitat management plan.

6. MSC DONATIONS

- Interpretive Trail at Lost Dog Wash Trailhead
- Interpretive Signage on Marcus Landslide Trail

Mr. Ekblaw explained that the donation related to the interpretive trail at the Lost Dog Wash Trailhead was for an amount of \$60,000 that would be donated directly to the City of Scottsdale for construction of an interpretive, accessible trail and for development of interpretive signage. The MSC will manage additional funds for development of interpretive signage that will be donated to the interpretive signage program, for a total program cost of approximately \$150,000. The trail would be named in honor of the family making the donation. The donation for interpretive signage on Marcus Landslide Trail is in the amount of \$25,000.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions.

COMMISSIONER FROST MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL ACCEPT THE CASH DONATION OF \$60,000 AND THE DONATION OF INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE FROM THE MSC FOR THE INTERPRETIVE TRAIL LOCATED AT THE LOST DOG WASH TRAILHEAD, AND THAT THE TRAIL BE NAMED IN HONOR OF THE FAMILY MAKING THE CASH DONATION. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MILILLO, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE CHAIRMAN KLEIN AND COMMISSIONERS ENGLEHORN AND NELSEN WERE ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER FROST MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL ACCEPT THE CASH DONATION OF \$25,000 FOR INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE ON MARCUS LANDSLIDE TRAIL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WHEELER, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE CHAIRMAN KLEIN AND COMMISSIONERS ENGLEHORN AND NELSEN WERE ABSENT.

7. NORTH AREA TRAIL PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT OVERVIEW

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the history of the North Area Trail Plan and reasons for revisiting the plan, discussed the public outreach efforts, and reviewed the table categorizing the public comments. The topics of trailhead locations and multi-use trails were identified as being at the policy level requiring further discussion and will be brought forward to the Commission in the fall. Two trail building firms are being contracted and once the final draft of the trail plan is approved by the Commission, staff will begin the implementation process.

Commission members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

8. STAFF REPORTS

- **Land Acquisition Update**

Mr. Ekblaw noted that appraisals are under way, and staff plans to have a presentation including the City's standing with State Parks on both land acquisition and financial aspects prepared for the September Commission meeting.

Commission Members and members of the public were given the opportunity to ask questions.

- **Financial Report**

Mr. Ekblaw confirmed that the question of using Preserve funds for promotional efforts has been submitted to the legal department.

- **Commission Work Plan**

Mr. Ekblaw said that an updated report on the Commission work plan would be prepared by either July or September.

- **North Area Planning**

- **Brown's Ranch Update**

Mr. Hamilton said that City Council approved a construction contract during their last meeting. A construction meeting is scheduled for next week. Construction is expected to begin in early July and to be completed in the summer of 2013.

- **Tom's Thumb Update**

Mr. Hamilton said that construction on Tom's Thumb is expected to be completed in mid-July and the grand opening celebration is tentatively planned for October 18. Additional information on grand opening activities will be provided to the Commission as they become available.

- **Current Projects Update**
 - **July 4th**

Ms. Miller said that the focus has been on preparing for construction at Brown's Ranch, including the salvage of plant materials, which are being relocated to Tom's Thumb and that the fence installation in the 128th Street area is ongoing.

Preparations are being made for 4th of July including patrols and a scheduled 3:00 p.m. closure.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Ekblaw noted that the July 9th meeting would be held at the Florence Ely Nelson location beginning at 3:00 p.m. and Game and Fish will be present for discussion.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 6, 2012

- **Future Land Cost Benefit Study Process**
- **Land Acquisition and Financial Update**
- **North Area Policies Discussion**
- **Commercial Fees and Budget Opportunities**

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.